

Serial No. 09/606,629

continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/369,100, filed January 5, 1995, now abandoned."--

And replace with -- "This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/447,642, filed November 23, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,214,385, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/287,904, filed April 7, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,033,687, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/169,172, filed October 9, 1998, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/814,602, filed March 10, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,834,024, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/369,100, filed January 5, 1995, now abandoned."--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

60. (Amended) A long lag pellet suitable for use in a once-a-day diltiazem formulation comprising a core and a coating layer sufficiently enveloping the core, wherein .

1) the core comprises an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and is substantially free of organic acid; and

2) the long lag pellet substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37°C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

- a) 0 to 10% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;
- b) 0 to 10% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;

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- Cr Crnt*
- c) 0 to 15% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;
 - d) 0 to 15% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours;
 - e) 4.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours;
 - f) 41% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours; and
 - g) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

61. (Amended) A long lag pellet suitable for use in a once-a-day diltiazem formulation comprising a core and a coating layer sufficiently enveloping the core, wherein

- 1) the core comprises an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and is substantially free of organic acid;
and
- 2) the long lag pellet substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37°C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:
 - a) 0 to 10.3% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;
 - b) 0 to 10.5% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;
 - c) 0 to 10.7% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;
 - d) 0 to 10.9% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours;
 - e) 4.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours;
 - f) 41% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours; and
 - g) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

62. (Amended) A once-a-day diltiazem formulation for oral administration comprising a mixture of two types of pellets, one of which is a long lag pellet that comprises a core and a coating layer sufficiently enveloping the core, wherein

1) the core comprises an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and is substantially free of organic acid;

and

2) the long lag pellet substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37°C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

- a) 0 to 10% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;
- b) 0 to 10% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;
- c) 0 to 15% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;
- d) 0 to 15% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours;
- e) 4.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours;
- f) 41% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours; and
- g) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

63. (Amended) A once-a-day diltiazem formulation for oral administration comprising a mixture of two types of pellets, one of which is a long lag pellet that comprises a core and a coating layer sufficiently enveloping the core, wherein

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- 1) the core comprises an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and is substantially free of organic acid; and
 - 2) the long lag pellet substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37°C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:
 - a) 0 to 10.3% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;
 - b) 0 to 10.5% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;
 - c) 0 to 10.7% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;
 - d) 0 to 10.9% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours;
 - e) 4.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours;
 - f) 41% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours; and
 - g) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

64. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where 14.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours.

65. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where 51% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours.

66. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where 41% to 51% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours.

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67. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where 14.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours and 51% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours.

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68. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where 14.5% to 24.5% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours and 41% to 51% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours.

69. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where

- a) 0-10.3% of the diltiazem is released after 1 hour;
- b) 0-11.3% of the diltiazem is released after 10 hours; and
- c) 0-13.1% of the diltiazem is released after 12 hours

70. (Amended) A long lag pellet according to claims 60 through 63 where

- a) 0-10.3% of the diltiazem is released after 1 hour;
- b) 0-11.3% of the diltiazem is released after 10 hours;
- c) 0-13.1% of the diltiazem is released after 12 hours;
- d) 14.5% to 24.5% fo the diltiazem is released after 14 hours; and
- e) 51% to 61% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours.